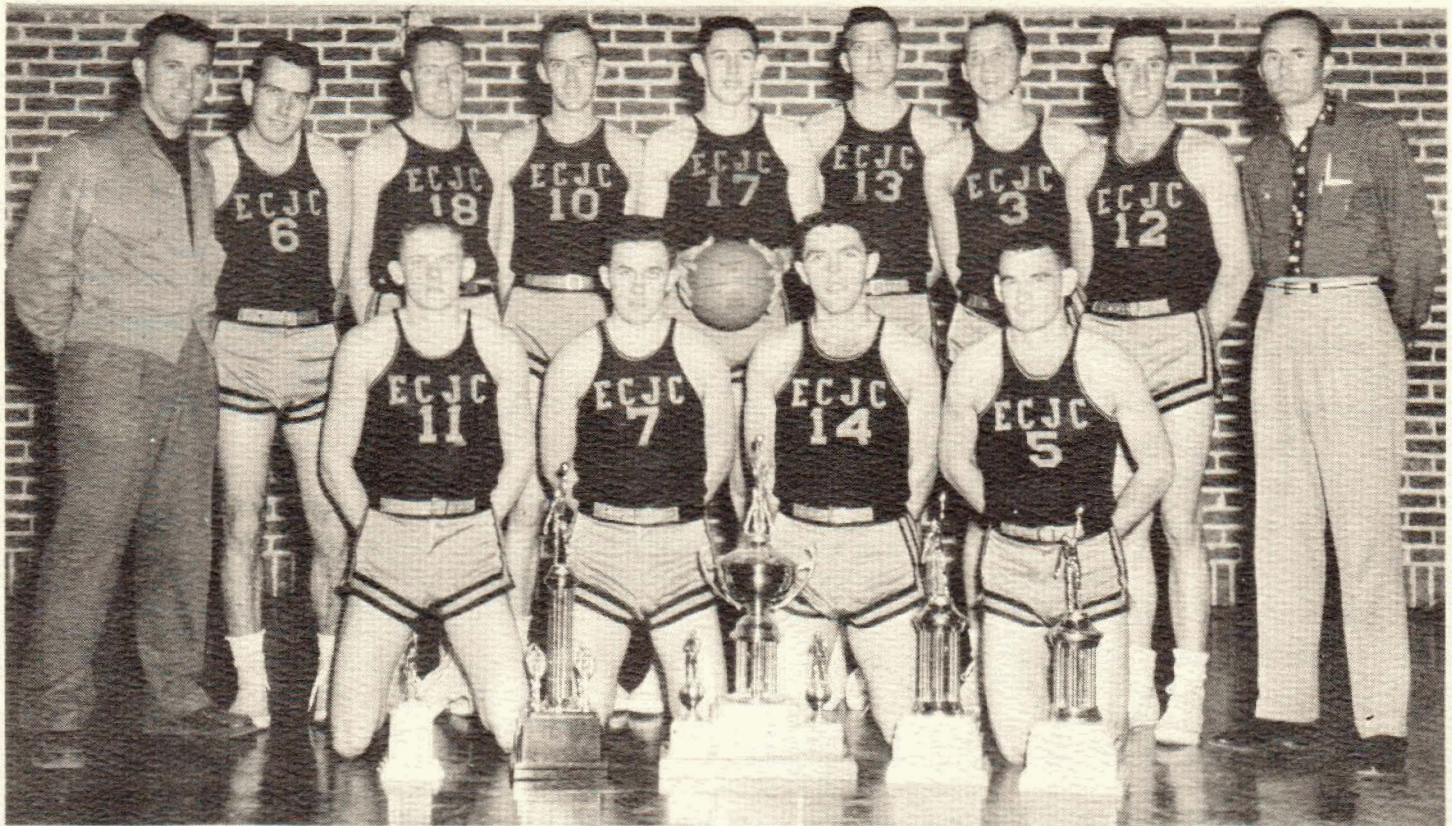


MRVF-138
ECCC

October 7, 1995 • East Central Community College • Decatur, Mississippi

HOMECOMING

Warrior Pride in Ninety-Five



Members of the 1954-55 Warrior men's basketball team being honored during the 1995 Homecoming activities are (kneeling from left) Pee Wee Crocker, Morris Hurst, Leo Russell, Derrell Thomas and (standing from left) Coach Clayton Blount, Joe Lee Johnson, John Williams, Joe Clark, Wayne Tullos, James Griffin, Johnny Alexander, A. G. Robinson and Tom Burt, manager.

ECCC
WITH YOU IN MIND

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

DR. JOHN GIPSON

Dr. John Gipson is described as the perfect example of someone who found success based on the ideals by which East Central Community College was founded: hard work, self discipline, goal-setting and determination.

A veterinarian, he began his practice in Newton in 1978. He describes his career as "most rewarding" and especially enjoys the relationships developed with his many clients. He gives credit to East Central Junior College for helping guide him through the path of success.

"At East Central, I not only learned how to study but also learned to discipline myself, set goals and stick to whatever it was I was doing. By doing so, I became more confident in myself and the abilities I had," he said.

Gipson describes several of his East Central instructors as simply "outstanding." He added one of his proudest achievements was passing organic chemistry taught by the late Frank Cross. "Mr. Cross was real tough, but I learned a lot in his class," Gipson added. He also was appreciative of several other instructors, including the late Frank Leatherwood, Dr. Shelby Harris and Ovid Vickers.

Because of his commitment to academics in preparation for veterinary school, Gipson said he was involved in only a few campus activities. However, he was obviously a popular student as he was selected Most Handsome his freshman year.

When he is not tending to animals, Dr. Gipson still finds time to be involved in community and civic activities.

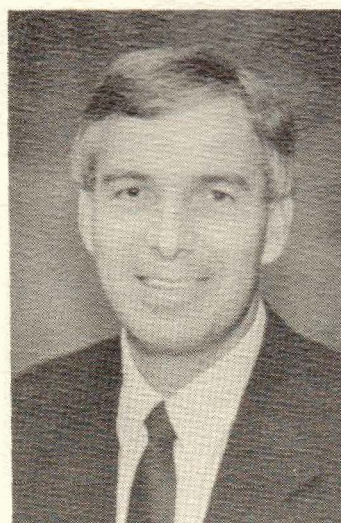
He is former president of the Newton Chamber of Commerce and twice served on the organization's Board of Directors. He is also a past president of the Newton High

School Booster Club and currently serves as board member. He is a former member of the Newton Lions Club. In addition, he is a member of First Baptist Church in Newton where he serves as deacon and director of Adult Sunday School classes. He formerly served on the Church's finance committee.

A Philadelphia native, Dr. Gipson is a 1966 graduate of Neshoba Central High School, East Central, Mississippi State University and the Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine. He entered military service as a participant in the Army Senior Student Program, serving three years active duty as an Army veterinarian stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Polk, La.; and later the New Orleans, La., Veterinarian Branch of Brooke Army Medical Center.

Dr. Gipson is married to the former Elaine Madison of Philadelphia, who is also an East Central graduate. They have two sons: Jay, who recently married the former Tracy Strickland of Philadelphia and will soon

receive a forestry degree from MSU, and Brad, a sophomore at East Central majoring in physical therapy. Jay also attended East Central before continuing his education at MSU.



*Dr. John Gipson
(Class of 1968)*

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR WANDA COMANS SHARP

Wanda Comans Sharp serves as Director of Choctaw Social Services in Philadelphia, a position she has held since 1985.

The program is responsible for general assistance, adult institutional care, group home care of handicapped children, foster care placement and emergency housing and protective services. Assistance is also provided concerning adoption, family violence, disaster relief and other areas.

In her work with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Sharp serves as supervisor to 18 employees and is administrator of contracted programs including funding for multi-million dollar projects through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She is also responsible for administering various grant programs under Health and Human Services and the Office of Victims of Crimes.

Prior to being named social services director, Sharp was Director of the Child Advocacy Program. This program was established for the protection of abused and neglected children on the Choctaw reservation. As director, she was responsible for passage of a resolution by the Choctaw Tribal Council which called for adoptions of Indian children to be handled in Tribal Court.

She was also the caseworker who led successful efforts all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court to reaffirm the rights of Indian tribes nationwide to have a major role in the adoption placement of Indian children.

Her honors include selection on the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Team which was formed to rewrite policies that would affect general assistance, child welfare, adult institutional care and miscellaneous services. The task force consisted of four

women representing various tribal affiliations throughout the United States who were employed by federally recognized tribes. She was recently chosen to join the Indian Child Welfare Task Force, which meets on a regular basis in Washington, D.C.

She also holds membership in the National Association of Social Workers, Mississippi Chapter of Social Workers and Indian Child Welfare Reform Committee. Locally, she is a member of the Laird Hospital Home Health Advisory Committee and serves as Training Field Coordinator for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. In addition, she is a member of Rocky Hill Church of God in Sebastopol where she serves as song leader.

A graduate of Sebastopol High School, she holds an associate of arts degree from ECCC, a bachelor of arts degree in social work/sociology from the University of Mississippi and a master's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is

presently working toward a doctoral degree in psychology through private studies with the University of Southern California. She and her husband, Travis, reside in Sebastopol where he is a barber and operates his own shop.



*Wanda Comans Sharp
(Class of 1971)*

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

CLAYTON BLOUNT

Clayton Blount led the 1954-55 Warrior basketball team to a 33-3 record and a fourth place finish in the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan. He was also successful coaching women's basketball, football and track before assuming administrative duties to complete a 16-year tenure at East Central.

He is still held in the highest regard by his former players, evidenced by the fact that several former team members and other supporters have established a Clayton Blount Scholarship at ECCC. Contributions are now being received to endow the scholarship which will be presented annually.

Blount's basketball Warriors represented one of the College's best teams to compete on the hardwoods, capturing the Hinds Invitational, Lions Bowl Tournament, Conference Championship and Region 7 title before advancing to the National Tournament. Members of that championship team are also being recognized at Homecoming.

Blount also found success coaching Lady Warrior basketball, leading the 1953-54 team to a state runner-up title. It was his success in women's basketball that first put him in the spotlight. He led the East Mississippi Junior College Lady Lions to a 77-3 record his two years on the Scooba campus. His final season, 1952-53, they won the State Championship and posted a 40-0 mark.

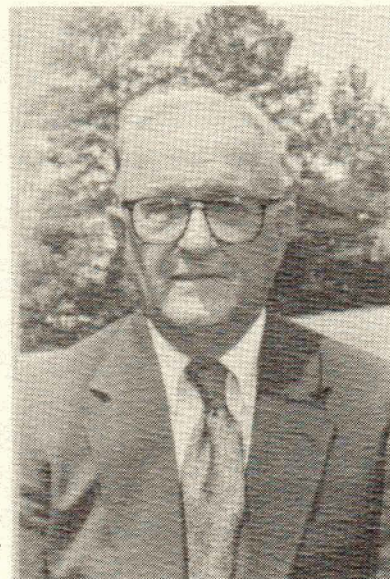
Blount, whose overall record as basketball coach was 145 wins and 27 losses, was also called upon to coach Warrior football. He had served as an assistant to Billy Ray Lindsley when he directed the basketball program, but when he became head football coach he gave up his basketball assignments.

During his first season, Blount led the Warrior football team to a 7-3 record. He would later compile an 18-12 mark before moving into administrative duties.

He left EC in 1969 to pursue other interests. He currently is associated with one of his former standout athletes, Jimmy Rea of Ridgeland, who owns an auction business.

Before he began a successful career in

coaching, Blount was an outstanding athlete in high school and college. An All-State halfback at Philadelphia High School, he led the Tornadoes to the C h o c t a w C o n f e r e n c e Championship and a 10-0 record. In addition, he was an All-State performer in track.



Clayton Blount

B e f o r e

continuing his athletic career, Blount was drafted in 1943, and after a year's duty at sea, he entered the Navy officer training program in New Jersey. He later attended Mississippi College and Duke University, where he played football. He continued his education at the University of Mississippi making his mark on the gridiron.

He had several outstanding performances as a Rebel, including scoring touchdowns on runs of 89 and 90 yards against Louisiana Tech and an 85 yard punt return for a score against Florida in the Gator Bowl. After graduation from Ole Miss, Blount began coaching at East Mississippi before continued success at East Central.

Although his current interest in sports is mainly on a spectator basis, Blount enjoys playing golf and participating in tournaments.

Blount is married to Lorraine Turner of Philadelphia, and they recently observed their 50th wedding anniversary. They have three sons. David is a coach/teacher at Jackson Academy and is married to Lorraine Harpole of Philadelphia. They have a son, Clay. Sam is an interior decorator in New York and is married to Charlene Mars of Philadelphia. They have a daughter, Anne. Dan and his wife, Sharon, live in Jackson where he owns a land and timber company. They have two sons: Daniel and Dustin.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

NAN HUSTON KEENAN

Nan Huston Keenan was an All-State guard on East Central Junior College's 1935-36 State Championship women's basketball team which posted an 18-1 record. She was also an All-State selection her freshman year.

The Lady Warriors were coached that year by Marguerite Dacey. Other team members included Edna Ruth Adams, Inez Long, Tommye Williamson, Offie Sue Adams, Pearl Shumaker, Marguerite Miller, Jack Burt, Lucille Dunham, Lena Williamson, Bonita Pou and Nellie Herrington. The group was honored at a previous Homecoming celebration held on the Decatur campus.

Keenan, who turns 79 in January, said she and her teammates were determined to win every game and added, "Coach Dacey was equally determined to help us achieve our goal by working us very hard in practice." They obviously accomplished their goal, winning all but one game en route to claiming state championship honors against Copiah-Lincoln Junior College.

Prior to beginning her athletic career at East Central, Keenan was a standout athlete at Coldwater High School in Neshoba County.

A first team performer all four years in high school, she began competition basketball in the sixth grade on an outside dirt court. Coldwater later became the first school in Neshoba County to build a gym with hardwood floors for basketball contests.

Her years at East Central were not only highlighted by her participation on a state championship team, but also because she met her future husband, Jim, when both were students at East Central. They married during her sophomore year on January 3, the same day she turned 19 years old. They remained married until his death in 1971.

Mr. Keenan was an agriculture teacher at Rose Hill and later Heidelberg schools. The Keenans also operated a farm where they raised cattle and chickens. In addition, they reared a daughter and two sons.

Family members include:

Eleanor (Mrs. Lex) Sims of Laurel, an elementary school principal in the Laurel Public School System. She and her husband have a daughter, Kary Sims, who is also employed with the Laurel School System;

Jimmy, a resident of Rose Hill who is employed as a mechanic for Apache Works in Meridian. He and his wife, Dianne, have a son, Chris, who is manager of the Bay Springs office of Laurel Federal Savings and Loan, and a daughter, Kaci, a nursing student at Jones County Junior College; and

John, a Wildlife Conservation officer who lives in Bay Springs with his wife, Sandy. They have three children: Tina, a secretary at Quitman Knitting Mills in Quitman and divorced mother of two children; Kyle, a lineman employed with East Mississippi Power Association in Quitman who resides in Rose Hill with his wife, Susan; and Kate, a seventh grade honor student at Heidelberg Academy.



Nan Keenan (Class of 1936)

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

JAMES T. "JIM" WOOD

Jim Wood was a standout forward on the 1946 Louisville High School basketball team that placed third in the state basketball tournament. This was before school size classifications, and the state tournament was played in the Old Gymnasium at East Central. His high school football experience was during his senior year. He was the starting left end.

Coach Carroll Shows recruited him to come to East Central. When he arrived in the fall of 1946 he was met by a host of players who were World War II veterans. These men had been high school stars for a three or four year span. He was truly awed, but with practice made that squad and was first substitute for both tackle positions. At the end of the season, he had as much playing time as the starters. Wood and one other recent high school graduate were the only two non-veterans to letter.

His jacket with the letter "D" is on display in the trophy case at Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus. His sophomore year he was the starting left tackle and earned his second letter in football. He was an inspirational leader on the football field and was recognized for his exceptional defensive play.

He was involved in two firsts for ECJC football: he played in the first home game under the lights and was on the first team to wear plastic helmets.

He was awarded a scholarship to the University of Idaho in January 1948 but returned to East Central for the fall semester. He served as the first trainer for the football team and graduated in January 1949. He then was awarded a scholarship to the University of Southern Mississippi, but chose in March 1949 to enlist in the Air Force. It was in the military he finally found his life calling.

Athletics continued to be a part of his life in the military. He coached and participated in touch football, basketball and softball on the squadron level. Later, while stationed in Canada, he took up bowling. He bowled a perfect 300 game while serving in Korea. The game was sanctioned by the

American Bowling Congress. He is the proud owner of many bowling trophies, including the ABC 300 game trophy.

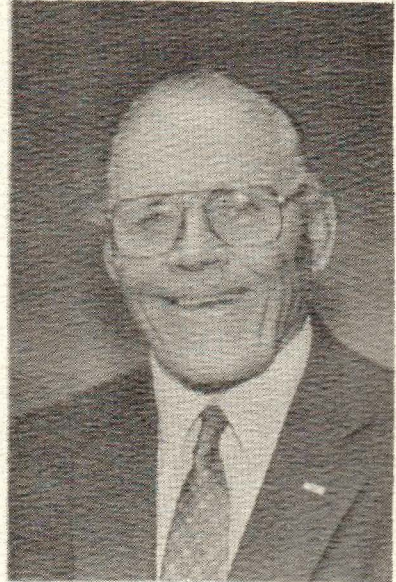
Also while stationed in Korea, he took up golf and became very successful. He has played in many tournaments, and golf is still a part of his life. Most days now he walks and plays 18 holes.

Wood served his country with distinction and received many honors. He served in Vietnam in 1966 and was awarded the Bronze Star. He retired in 1974 as a lieutenant colonel.

On returning to Louisville, his active associations with East Central were renewed. From 1974 to 1985, he saw more women's basketball games than anyone except the coach, his sister Lucille Wood. Over the years, he has supported all athletic teams and functions. He has been a major contributor to the Warrior Club since its inception in 1989. He is also a lifetime member of the ECCC Alumni Association.

Wood is married to the former Mary Ann Willis of Alexander City, Ala. They have two children: Capt. James T. Wood, Jr., of the U. S. Army and Scott Willis Wood who works with Polo/Ralph Lauren in San Francisco, Calif.

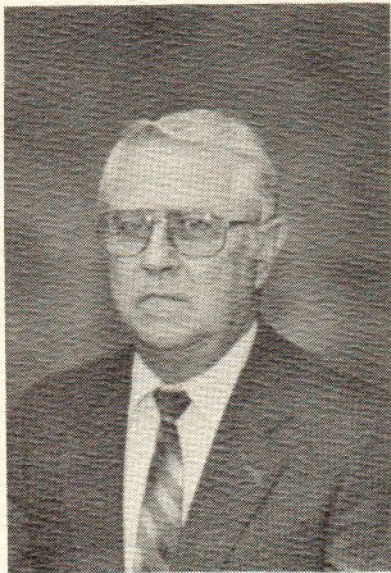
Wood's participation in sports at East Central and active support for the College and sports for the past 21 years merits his induction in the Athletic Hall of Fame.



Jim Wood (Class of 1948)

INSTRUCTORS OF THE YEAR

ACADEMIC INSTRUCTOR AL DEATON



Al Deaton

Al Deaton has taught physics and computer science at East Central for over 27 years.

A native of Shannon, where he graduated from high school, Deaton developed an interest in science and math at Itawamba Junior College. This interest followed him to Mississippi

State University where he received a bachelor of science degree in math and science education and a master of education in narrative math and science.

Deaton came to ECCC in 1968 to apply for a math teaching position. But since the position was already filled, he was encouraged to apply for a position as physics instructor, which he has held ever since.

He is a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers; Mississippi Association of Physics Teachers, which he serves as treasurer; and American Physics Society. He is also member of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church in Decatur and the ECCC Baptist Student Union, where he served for 20 years as treasurer.

He is married to Barbara Finney of Shannon, ECCC faculty secretary. They have two sons. Phil is married to Cindy Bridges, both ECCC graduates, and they have three children: Emily, Alex and Zack. Phil is a distributor for Hardy Heaters and is self employed in private aviation in Philadelphia. Steve, also an ECCC graduate, teaches English at Holmes Community College.

VOCATIONAL -TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR SARAH A. GRIFFIN



Sarah A. Griffin

Sarah Griffin has served as cosmetology instructor at ECCC for 11 years, serving the past four as lead instructor for the cosmetology department.

A graduate of Enterprise High School, Griffin attended business college in Meridian. She then served as a secretary for 12 years at Randall and Christian Insurance in Meridian.

She then decided to pursue a career in cosmetology and entered the ECCC program. Following graduation, she worked for several years as a hairstylist.

Griffin then returned to ECCC to enter the cosmetology teacher training program. When she finished, she was employed by the College.

Griffin is an active member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. She also holds membership in the Miss. Cosmetology Schools Association, National Cosmetology Association, Miss. Association of Vocational Educators, National Hairdressers Association, American Vocational Association, Miss. Faculty Association, ECCC Faculty Association and VICA.

Her husband, Jerry Griffin, is a cattle owner and manager of Bar D Ranch in Rose Hill. They reside in Hero and have two sons: James Kevin, an area woodyard manager for Richton Tie and Timber in Newton who is married to Kathy Speed, and Jeffrey Wayne, an auctioneer and herdsman for Bar D Ranch, whose wife is Angie Morgan. The Griffins have three grandchildren: Kasidi Sha, Justine Wayne and Dakota Lynn.

HOMECOMING ROYALTY



Members of the 1995 ECCC Homecoming Court include (seated from left) Queen Brandi Laird of Morton, Maid of Honor Frankie Reed of Forest, and (standing from left) sophomore maids Heather McMillan of Edinburg and Kyra Fulton and Jennifer Thomas, both of Philadelphia, and freshman maids Carla Clark of Philadelphia, Kelly Melton of Enterprise and Tonya Covington of Louisville.

ECCC REPORTS RECORD ENROLLMENT

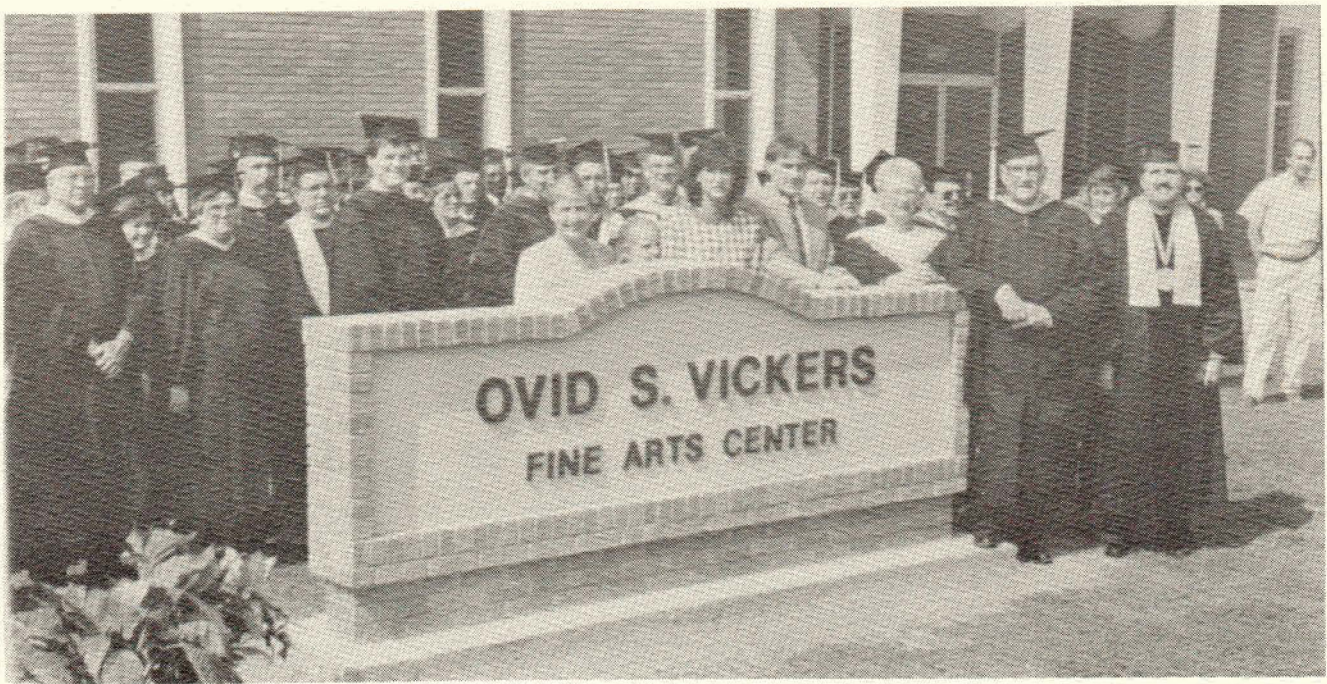
A record 1,698 students registered for the 1995 fall semester at East Central Community College, according to Raymond McMullan, director of admissions, records and research.

McMullan said the fall enrollment surpasses the previous record mark of 1,522 students who attended classes during the 1995 spring term. The 1,698 total is also an increase of over 14 percent compared to the 1,482 students who registered for the 1994 fall semester.

The new enrollment figures include 1,181 academic students, 442 technical students and 75 vocational students. Of these students, 1,182 are full-time and 516 are part-time and 1,247 are day students and 451 are evening students. There are 488 students living in residence halls and 1,210 commuter students.

An interesting statistic is that 621 of the 1,698 students are age 23 or older. There is also a 2 to 1 ratio of female (1,018) students to male (680) students.

Enrollment has steadily increased since 1985, when 819 students registered for classes. These numbers include students enrolled in classes at the Decatur campus and the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Vocational-Technical Center, as well as various locations throughout the College's five-county district.



VICKERS CENTER DEDICATED

The Ovid S. Vickers Fine Arts Center was dedicated during convocation ceremonies in the spring on the Decatur campus. Vickers, longtime English instructor, shown next to the sign designating the facility's new name, was also praised for his 40 years of service to the College.



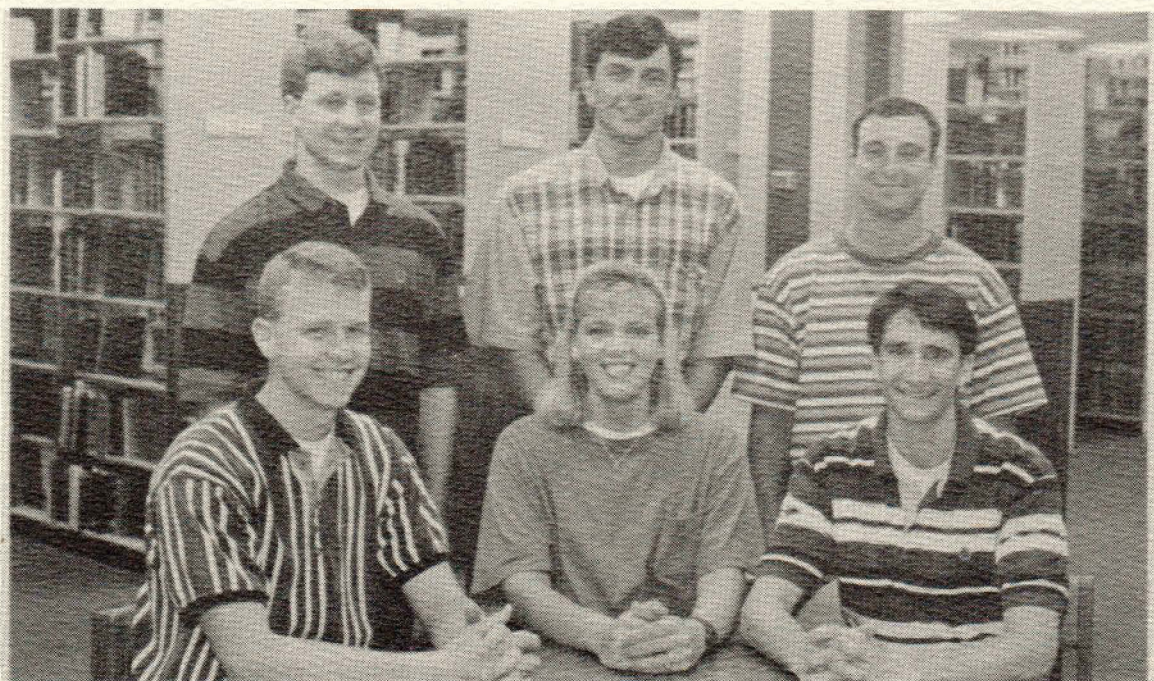
GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR ALLIED HEALTH/CHILDCARE FACILITY

This fall, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new Allied Health/Childcare Facility on the Decatur campus. The \$1.6 million structure will contain 21,165 square feet and will be built on the old band practice field, across from Scott Hall. It will house the associate degree nursing and childcare technology programs, with a proposed second module scheduled for construction at a later date to include the College's licensed practical nursing and surgical technology programs. Completion of the project is scheduled for spring 1996.



NATIONAL VICA WINNER

Randy Germany (left) of Union displays the medal he won for placing second in the Collision Repair Technology division of the 29th annual Skills USA Championships. Germany, a 1995 honor graduate of ECCC, advanced to the national competition after winning first place honors in the state contest. With Germany is Conrad Germany, ECCC auto body and fender repair technology instructor, who is also the outstanding student's father.



NJCAA ALL-AMERICANS

These former ECCC athletes have been named National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-Americans for the 1994-95 school year. Recipients of this prestigious honor must have lettered in one or more sports and have a 3.6 or better GPA. Honorees include (seated from left) Mike Hurst of Hickory, distinguished (3.8 GPA), basketball; Dane Vance, basketball, and Philip Prince, basketball, both from Philadelphia; and (standing from left) Kris Rigdon of Decatur, tennis; Brooks Bryan of Philadelphia, baseball; and Chad Ardoin of Pascagoula, baseball.